

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application with all claims being rejected in the present Advisory Action.

The Examiner rejected Applicants' arguments submitted with the Amendment filed on November 6, 2003 in response to the Final Office Action mailed on August 7, 2003. In that Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 12-16, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,946,257 (Keeth) and Claims 7-11 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keeth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,027 (Sher).

The Applicants' Amendment filed on November 6, 2003, included amendments of Claims 1 and 12 and the following arguments:

Keeth describes a memory circuit, which includes distributed voltage generators to selectively provide power to memory arrays of the memory circuit.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the text in column 9, lines 60-65 of Keeth reading:

"This method of array control provides the benefit of flexible fabrication. That is, as integrated circuits become bigger, power distribution becomes more difficult. The requirements of a single voltage generator for an entire circuit would be impractical to meet. Thus, using distributed voltage generators provides a more efficient manner of adjusting an integrated circuit than a series of isolation switches"

does not disclose "at least one enable/disable circuit for selectively connecting and disconnecting at least a portion of the respective macro from the integrated circuit system" recited in Claim 1 as amended or "means for controlling the means coupled to the means for receiving the external voltage according to an enable/disable signal to selectively connect and disconnect at least a portion of the respective macro of the plurality of macros" recited in Claim 12 as filed.

By stating in column 9, lines 64-67: "Thus, using distributed voltage generators provides a more efficient manner of adjusting an integrated circuit than a series of isolation switches" Keeth teaches away from the above stated recitations of independent Claims 1 and 12.

The present Advisory Action references column 3, lines 55-59 of Keeth. Column 3, lines 55-61 of the Keeth specification state:

"Additionally, the DRAM has test circuitry which is used to individually enable and disable each of the memory subarrays as needed to identify defective subarrays. The

DRAM also has programmable elements which allow for the electrical isolation of defective subarrays to be permanent at least with respect to the end user of the DRAM.”

Contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, the relevant part of that section “individually enable and disable each of the memory subarrays” does not disclose “at least one enable/disable circuit for selectively connecting and disconnecting at least a portion of the respective macro from the integrated circuit system” recited in Claim 1 as amended in the reply to the Office Action filed on November 6, 2003.

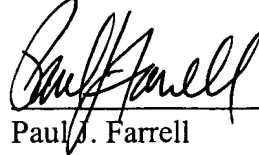
Additionally, the Examiner did not address the Applicants’ argument that Keeth does not disclose “means for controlling the means coupled to the means for receiving the external voltage according to an enable/disable signal to selectively connect and disconnect at least a portion of the respective macro of the plurality of macros” recited in Claim 12 and that Keeth teaches away from the above stated recitations of independent Claims 1 and 12.

Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-6, 12-16, 21, and 22, it is submitted that they overcome Keeth by virtue of their dependencies on independent Claims 1 and 12. Furthermore, without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 7-11, and 17-20, it is submitted that they overcome Keeth, Sher, and the combination thereof by virtue of their dependencies on independent Claims 1 and 12. Accordingly it is submitted that Claims 1-5, 12-16, 21, and 22 are patentable over Keeth and Claims 7-11, and 17-20 are patentable over Keeth in view of Sher.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-22 is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that pending Claims 1- 22 are believed to be in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", is written over a horizontal line.

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